

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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CHANCELLOR RAAB WELL ON WAY TO RECOVERY. The recovery of Chancellor Julius Raab, who suffered a slight stroke on August 31, has progressed remarkably. He is in excellent condition and is expected to have recovered completely within a few weeks. According to Dr. Schweitzer, the physician in charge, the Chancellor is well enough to make important political decisions which have to be submitted to him.

The detailed examination carried out by Dr. Schweitzer shows that the paralytic manifestations in the right foot have receded. All the other findings are also completely satisfactory; most important, the disturbance in the blood circulation of the brain has diminished with amazing rapidity.

AUSTRIA HONORS HERBERT HOOVER. Austrian Ambassador to the United States Karl Gruber recently awarded former President Herbert Hoover the Grand Gold Medal with Ribbon in recognition of his services to Austria.

Hoover was honored for his assistance to Austrian children after World War One and for his continued and helpful interest in Austrian reconstruction.

NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR ARRIVES IN VIENNA. The Honorable H. Freeman Matthews, the new United States Ambassador to Austria, arrived in Vienna on September 1.

"EUROPE STILL HAS A CHANCE...BUT TIME IS SHORT." Speaking on the subject "Common Tasks of European Educators" at the European Seminar organized by the city of Vienna, Karl Czernetz, Socialist member of Parliament, warned that educators must not become "unconscious helpers of dictatorships through motives of humanistic idealism or through political ignorance." The speaker said that teachers everywhere, fortified by political knowledge and political courage, must help train the future citizens of a democratic Europe. He emphasized that even love of peace and humanity should never be a reason for Europe's knuckling to the yoke of dictatorships:

"European educators are very well equipped to acquaint youth with a knowledge and appreciation of the European cultural community, but is this enough? Europe is in peril;
(Continued on page 2).

Enclosed in this issue

The Chemical Corn Exchange Bank's survey

on

AUSTRIA'S PRESENT ECONOMIC POSITION

FIGL, PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ARRIVE IN U.N. ASSEMBLY. Austrian Foreign Minister Figl, who will head the Austrian delegation to the 12th General Assembly, arrived in New York today, September 14. Dr. Figl is accompanied by Josef Schoener, Secretary General of the Foreign Office, and members of his personal staff, including Franz Wunderbaldinger, secretary, and Otto Sternberg, press officer.

(Heinrich Haymerle, the political director of the foreign office who arrived at an earlier date, has participated in the deliberations on the Hungarian question.)

The People's party and Socialist parliamentary figures, Franz Prinke and Franz Olah, who have also been appointed delegates, arrived with Minister Figl. Mr. Olah is the leader of the Socialist faction in Parliament, Vice President of the Austrian Trade Union Federation and a former Vice President of the ICFTU.

KAMITZ, FINANCE MINISTER, DUE SEPT. 15. The Austrian Minister of Finance, Prof. Reinhard Kamitz, will arrive tomorrow for a week's stay in New York. He will then proceed to Washington where he will attend the annual meeting of the World Bank.

KAMITZ ON INTEGRATION OF EUROPEAN FINANCIAL POLICY. An important item on the agenda of the recent Alpbach European Forum was the fourth "Conversation on Economics," organized as a contribution to a coordinated European monetary and financial policy. On this occasion Professor Kamitz, the Austrian Minister of Finance, spoke on the subject of a common European financial and economic policy. The speaker said that international economic cooperation is now a vital necessity for European countries, on which their material needs depend. In view of the dangers confronting our economy and social order, and consequently affecting the freedom of the individual, such cooperation is absolutely imperative.

Prof. Kamitz pointed out that the countries belonging to the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) and the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) have come to realize that questions of trade and foreign-exchange policy can no longer be settled unilaterally. Thus far, however, financial policy decisions have not been included in the system of mutual agreements. He said that the achievements in the field of integration, particularly with respect to liberalization of the exchange of goods and

half a century ago it was the leader of the world; today it is an impotent welter of small and medium-sized states lying between the two giants, the United States and the Soviet Union. Besides, there are the awakening millions of colored peoples, a total one-and-one-half billion, many of whom are starving and suffering. In a world of this kind, it is not enough to rely simply on the magnificent cultural heritage of Europe. Teachers, more than anyone else, should be free of illusions. In a world where all the old values are almost lost, the European cultural community will not endure if its ethical foundations are allowed to crumble." Czernetz stressed the degree to which Europe lagged behind the United States from the technical and economic points of view. He said that Europe would turn into an under-developed area within ten to twenty years if it did not keep abreast of technical developments such as the industrial revolution of atomic power, the electronic brain, etc. This would happen because Europe is not a large, unified economic area.

The speaker then declared: "The splitting up into national states is today a fatal danger for all of us; European unity has become a compelling historical necessity. Europe still has a chance but the time is short. There are a huge number of European institutions and new ones are being added. Everywhere there is talk about Europe, but too little is being done for Europe. The idle motion of many institutions results in a feeling of resignation. Instead of complaining about the hesitation of the statesmen, the question should be raised: 'Where is public opinion in Europe? Where is the press? Where are the political parties? Where is the youth of Europe? Where are the Europeans? What are they all doing for the unity of Europe?'"

"This," said Czernetz in conclusion, "is the great common task of European educators. Europe will be united only when the people of Europe want it."

SHARPLY INCREASED INFLUX FROM YUGOSLAVIA. During recent weeks, the rate of illegal entries of Yugoslav citizens into Austria has assumed proportions which are causing great concern to the Austrian authorities. According to statements by Minister of the Interior Helmer, 1,500 refugees crossed the border into Austria during June; this number rose to 2,600 in July and is expected to reach 3,500 for August. It is estimated that by the end of the year the number of these refugees will amount to about 20,000.

HELMER RENEWS APPEAL. While it is true that a majority of Yugoslav and other refugees want to emigrate overseas, the fact that several countries, including Canada, have placed an embargo on immigration remains unaltered. Interior Minister Helmer has again appealed to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee Affairs to take steps to bring about the admission of Yugoslav refugees to foreign countries. In the event that this should not be possible, Austria will be compelled to reconsider her present policy and to grant asylum only to bona fide political refugees. Mr. Helmer stressed that if other countries were opposed to immigration, there could be no conceivable moral justification for expecting Austria to assume the entire burden herself.

OVERFLOW OF REFUGEES IN STYRIAN CAMPS. All the refugees who have crossed the Austrian border from the south have been transferred to Camp Wagner near Leibnitz, Styria. The camp is filled beyond capacity; as of August 1, it was housing 421 refugees. The continual overcrowding results in hardships for both the camp residents and the people in the surrounding areas. Because of the steady increase in the influx from the south, an increasing number of Yugoslav refugees have to be transported to Western Austria.

Of late, there is also an increase in the number of refugees to whom asylum cannot be granted. In July, 184 persons were returned to the Yugoslav authorities at Spielfeld. (These refugees are proven criminal elements and persons attempting to escape the responsibility of supporting the families they have left behind. Some of them are Yugoslavs who have themselves requested repatriation, having lost all hope of being able to emigrate overseas.)

"Europe Still Has a Chance..." (Continued from page 1)

services, needed to be supplemented by a common financial and currency policy for all European countries.

"As long as each country conducts its financial policy at its own discretion," the Minister said, "there is an increased danger, because of the more liberal structure of goods exchange, of crises in balances of payment, of shrinking foreign trade and of national production and employment difficulties. On the other hand, the closer the ties between trade relations, on the one hand, and increasing liberalization, on the other hand, the more rapidly the strength of one country's currency will spread to others. If economic integration is to be pursued further, agreement must be reached on financial-policy goals, such as stability of the gold standard, and an effort must be made to achieve joint action in budgetary and credit policy."

"In particular," continued Prof. Kamitz, "agreement could be reached on the question whether a restrictive, if neutral or expansive budgetary policy should be pursued. Through joint action in deciding the extent of investment, in establishing cash reserves or in adjusting the proceeds from certain loans, economic policy could be attuned to actual requirements, insulating it from the vagaries of domestic policy. Of course, the budget of the international community should not be drawn up on rigid principles. A certain amount of play must be left for differences in the economic situations of the various countries; production and employment at any given time must be geared to these factors. In such a way it should be possible to fulfil the international requirement of a stabilization in business conditions."

Minister Kamitz declared further that attention would have to be paid to a proper equilibrium between budgetary policy and credit policy, taking due regard of minor deviations, especially if these are not to be allowed to impair the broad outlines of the program. If credit policy measures are to become a reality, collaboration between governments too, is necessary. "Only when they extend to the vital field of financial policy, will the principles of European integration be realized," the Finance Minister said in conclusion.

35,000 UNDER ARMS. On October 1, 1957, 15,000 men will be called up for their period of regular military service. These include men of the class of 1938 and those of the class of 1937 whose period of postponement has expired. The conscription orders were delivered between August 30 and September 3, 1957.

As of October 1, the military force will number approximately 35,000 men. It is planned to call up the second group of members of the class of 1938 on March 10, 1958. The call-up of the class of 1939 is expected to begin on March 25, 1958.

CIVIL DEFENSE ENGINEERS - A NEW ARMY UNIT. A recent innovation in the Austrian Army was the establishment of Civil Defense Engineer units, a category which has not previously existed in the Army. The decision to set them up was based on the experience of World War Two. They will have the following assignments: fire fighting, rescue and repair work, engineering work, flood rescue work and decontamination service. They will have at their disposal clearing and traction machinery, compression equipment and other engineering equipment, including fire-control devices. The organization, equipment, mobility and potentialities of these units make them particularly suited for special duty in times of peace.

FOREIGN-CURRENCY RECEIPTS IN JULY. The heavy influx of foreign tourists into Austria during July resulted in a further increase in foreign-currency receipts. According to a report just published by the Austrian National Bank, these receipts represented a value of 835.5 million schillings (1 dollar equals 26 schillings - Ed.). This figure was 78 per cent higher than that for June 1957 and 19 per cent higher than that for July 1956.

CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN EUROPEAN FREE TRADE AREA FORMULATED. A spokesman for Austrian industry recently restated Austria's reasons for demanding concessions for her participation in the European Free Trade Area. The following factors were emphasized: the retarding effect on reconstruction caused by the country's ten-year occupation; the unfavorable geographic location of Austria as regards maritime commerce; and the economic bottleneck created by the reorganization, still in progress, of the oil industries, formerly administered by the Soviets. It was also pointed out that, even in the interest of the whole of Europe, no encumbrance such as unemployment - however temporary - should be allowed to prejudice the stable conditions existing in Austria today.

Austrian industry, the spokesman added, therefore expects to be conceded a three-year moratorium on tariff reductions, to be embodied in the escape clause in the Free Trade Area Convention in order to ensure adequate safeguards for Austria's position.

Similar claims were made simultaneously by Austrian representatives in the Organization for European Economic Cooperation.

BONDS ON SWISS MARKET STEADY. At the end of June, Austrian bonds were quoted on the Swiss market at an average 110.16 per cent of issue price as against 109.4 per cent recorded for the end of May. The overall index of prices offered for foreign bonds on the Zurich Exchange was 88.69. Seven issues of Austrian bonds, representing a total nominal value of 33.8 million Swiss francs, are negotiated in Zurich.

MOUNTING EPU BALANCE. The July figures for the European Payments Union show that Austria has a balance of 16.5 million dollars for July, as against 14.5 million in June and 3.1 million in May. The increases reflected in these statistics are of 365 per cent from May to June and an additional 14 per cent from June to July.

700 MILLION SCHILLINGS ADDITIONAL SILVER-COIN CIRCULATION IN AUSTRIA. The minting of silver currency, which at the present time means the 25-schilling and 10-schilling coins, is to be greatly intensified under a long-term minting program of the Vienna Mint. The program provides for the placing of approximately 700 million schillings' worth of silver coins into circulation. This would represent 100 schillings in silver per head of the Austrian population. (1 dollar equals 26 schillings - Ed.).

NEW UNITED STATES PAVILION AT VIENNA FAIR. "The cost of the United States pavilion now under construction at the Vienna Fair Grounds has accrued entirely to the benefit of the Austrian economy," according to Karl Schwanzer, the Austrian architect in charge of the project. Herr Schwanzer pointed out that all the building materials used are of Austrian origin and that the contracts have been awarded to Austrian companies only. The pavilion, including its interior appointments, will not be completed before the 1958 spring fair. (In order to give visitors to Vienna's 1957 Fall Fair an idea of American building methods used for the project, Austrian workers will demonstrate the erection and dismantling of interior divisions.)

AUSTRIA'S MAJOR POWER CONSUMERS. Of the 5.8 billion KWH of electric current consumed by Austrian industry in 1956, no less than 2.9 billion, or 50.7 per cent, were used by the following ten major plants: the Oesterreichisch-Alpine Montangesellschaft; the Schoeller-Bleckmann Steel Works, the United Austrian Iron and Steel Works (VOEST), the Austrian Nitrogen Works, Boehler Brothers and Co. (Steel), the Ranshofen Aluminum Works, the United Aluminum Works, the Salzburg Aluminum Corporation, the Donau-Chemie A.G. the Zellwolle Lenzing A.G. (Lenzing Staple Fiber) and the Steyr-Daimler-Puch A.G. (Motor Vehicles). Of the above, the largest is the Ranshofen Aluminum Works, which itself accounted for over 1 billion KWH or more than one-third of the amount used by the big consumers. Its requirements are approximately equivalent to those of all Austrian households, amounting to something over 1 billion KWH.

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INCREASING POWER NEEDS. Electric energy and petroleum, the two principal sources of power supply in Austria, are also the two most important items in the country's annual financing requirements. The position in respect to oil, which involves inordinately high development costs, was discussed in our preceding issue (Austrian Information, X-14). In the case of electric power production, experts have estimated that further expansion of capacity, made necessary by the growth of the economy and increased demand by private power consumers, will represent an annual financing requirement of between 3 and 4 billion schillings (1 dollar equals 26 schillings - Ed.); this figure includes the sums required for developing transmission facilities. Of the amount stated, approximately 2 billion schillings per year would be for use by the Austrian State Electricity Authority, while the remainder would be used to meet the requirements of other energy producers. (The estimate is based on the assumption that Austria's power requirements will double within the next ten years and that during this period no available source of energy will be cheaper than Austria's domestic hydroelectric resources, the capacity of which is assumed to be 35 billion KWH.)

A comparison between capacity theoretically available and capacity already developed shows that the Austrian electric power economy is still far removed from the area of marginal costs for developing hydroelectric facilities; a number of particularly favorable projects are still waiting to be realized. In terms of cost, atomic energy, which for a long time will still involve very high installation expenditures, is for the time being unlikely to compete with water power.

POWER PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION SINCE 1950

Year	Total Production	Imports	Total Production plus Imports	Exports	Total Consumption, incl. Losses
			(in millions of KWH)		
1950	6,351	29	6,380	720	5,660
1951	7,375	45	7,420	849	6,571
1952	8,032	85	8,117	1,060	7,057
1953	8,764	206	8,970	1,296	7,674
1954	9,847	272	10,119	1,492	8,627
1955	10,751	446	11,197	1,498	9,699
1956	11,718	499	12,217	1,713	10,504

DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL PRODUCTION (IN MILLIONS OF KWH)

Year	Public Supply*	Federal Railroads	Industry-owned Installations for Use by Industry**
1950	4,911	333	1,107
1951	5,679	376	1,320
1952	6,280	397	1,355
1953	6,885	427	1,452
1954	7,721	452	1,674
1955	8,417	490	1,844
1956	9,302	494	1,922

(*) Including supply to industry.

(**) Less deliveries to electricity-supply organizations.

During the past five years, gross per capita power consumption has increased from 1018 to 1504 KWH. (This figure is still far below the level of other countries with large hydroelectric capacities: in Switzerland, per capita consumption is twice as high; in Sweden it is more than two-and-one-half times and in Norway approximately five times as high.

Besides, as shown elsewhere in this issue, a decisive factor in the Austrian per capita figure is the consumption of the Ranshofen Aluminum Works; without Ranshofen, the per capita consumption quota for 1956 would drop from 1504 to 1351 KWH.)

THE POWER PRODUCTION PICTURE IN TERMS OF HYDROELECTRIC AND THERMAL ENERGY

Year	Production in Millions of Kilowatts			Percentage	
	Hydro- electric	Thermo- electric	Total	Hydro- electric	Thermo- electric
1950	4,976	1,375	6,351	78.3	21.7
1951	5,684	1,691	7,375	77.1	22.9
1952	6,370	1,662	8,032	79.3	20.7
1953	6,430	2,334	8,764	73.4	26.6
1954	7,258	2,589	9,847	73.7	26.3
1955	7,905	2,846	10,751	73.5	26.5
1956	8,661	3,057	11,718	73.9	26.1

THE GROWTH IN DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION

Annual increase in Consumption from	In Millions of KWH	Percentage
1950 to 1951	911	16.1
1951 to 1952	486	7.4
1952 to 1953	617	8.7
1953 to 1954	953	12.4
1954 to 1955	1,072	12.4
1955 to 1956	805	8.3

In an evaluation of the long-term trend, the increase during 1951 need not be taken into account since it merely reflected the effort to make up for the loss in production during the early postwar period. During the subsequent five years, 1954 and 1955 are characterized by very pronounced increases in consumption, reflecting the most vigorous period of expanded economic activity. During 1956, the rate of increase tended to slow down, but even then it was appreciably higher than the average annual rate (i.e. 7.2 per cent) on which a doubling of consumption within a ten-year period would be predicated. (In Austria, the average rate of increase in consumption during the last five years is almost exactly 10 per cent.)

SHARP RISE IN RURAL POWER CONSUMPTION. During July, there again was an increase in the number of electrical equipment and tractors used in agriculture. Thus far, only an estimate covering Lower Austria is available; it is clear, however, that the brisk pace of mechanization has surprised even the experts. The resulting heavy increase in power requirements of Austrian agriculture, too, presents a challenge to the Austrian power economy.

The pertinent figures for July, compared with those for 1953 (in parentheses), are: tractors 30,197 (10,991), milking machines 5,310 (1,530), washing machines 20,422 (1,503), electric ovens 11,882 (1,560), battery boxes 4,445 (738), freezers (refrigerators) 10,594 (1,324) and electric motors 87,401 (69,855).

FIRST HALF MINING OUTPUT TOPS 1956 FIGURE. Compared with the figures for the first half of last year, Austrian mines yielded a sizable increase in production during the January-June period of this year, thus consolidating gains made during the second half of 1956. Iron-ore output for the first half of 1957 amounted to 1,682,000 tons, or 11 per cent

above the 1956 comparable level. Relevant figures for raw magnesite, sintered magnesite and copper ores were 551,000, 86,000 and 83,000 tons respectively, with individual increases over the 1956 first half output of 51,000, 10,000 and 9,300 tons.

NEW TEST DRILLING IN UPPER AUSTRIA. The Rohoelgewinnungs-A.G. (RAG) recently began prospecting at a new site, the Wegscheid I well in the Voecklabruck District. Earlier, the company had struck oil for the first time in Upper Austria with the well at the Puchheim II site. In the drilling at Wegscheid I, an American collapsible rig is being used for the first time. It is proposed to drill to a depth of 9,000 ft. with the new apparatus.

VIENNA A CITY OF CONGRESSES. Between January and August 1957, Vienna furnished accommodations to approximately 270,000 foreign guests. The renewed attraction of Vienna is reflected, among other things, in the number of congresses lately held there. This year, as in the past, the municipal administration of Vienna acted as host to most of the international meetings: approximately 5,000 foreign delegates to 60 meetings, congresses and seminars were welcomed by the Mayor at City Hall.

By the end of the present tourist season, the number of congresses will have reached at least 100. During the first half of September Vienna meetings are scheduled by the Austrian model plane builders and sport flyers, the World Union of Austrians Living Abroad and by experts in Finance and Tax Law. These will be followed, later in the month, by a meeting of the International Standards Committee, an international seminar for Economic and Social Problems, a physicians' congress of the Vienna Van Swieten Society and the Fifth World Congress of the International Association of the Catholic Press.

Among the ten congresses scheduled thus far for October, the U.N. Atomic Conference, the Meeting of Austrian Communities, and the meeting of European surgeons are among the most important. Some 5,000 delegates are expected in Vienna for these three conferences alone.

ENGINEERING CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER.

The first Austrian general engineering conference will be held in Vienna October 10-12. The conference is being arranged by a working committee from the Austrian Association of Engineers and Architects in conjunction with the various engineering trade associations, technical training centers and colleges and the official agencies concerned. The agenda includes discussion on suitable action to warn against some of the dangers inherent in technical development, as well as to answer unfounded accusations levelled against the technical sciences. It is also planned to set up an organization representative of Austrian engineers and to establish liaison with similar European and international associations.

240 YOUNG CATHOLIC WORKERS FROM THE U.S. VISIT VIENNA.

The entire United States delegation participating in the Rome pilgrimage of the Catholic Working Youth Organization recently paid a visit to Vienna. The group, which consists of 240 young men and women workers, came to Vienna from Salzburg on their way back from Rome.

35 PERCENT INCREASE IN OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS FOR FOREIGN TOURISTS. According to the statistics just published, the June-1957 number of overnight accommodations offered by Austrian hotels and inns was substantially higher than that of the preceding June. (June 1947: 3,240,745 overnight accommodations, a 25 per cent increase over the figure of 2,590,410 for June 1956.) Of the total 1957 figure, foreign tourists accounted for 1,994,467 accommodations and Austrian tourists for 1,246,278. The increase in respect of domestic tourists was 12 per cent while that for foreign tourists was 35 per cent.

As in the past, the greatest flow of foreign travellers was to Tyrol, which recorded 696,758 overnight accommodations (more than 631,000 for foreign guests). Tyrol accounted for 31.6 per cent of the overnight accommodations offered during June, followed by Salzburg (569,150 accommodations, of which 21.6 were for foreign tourists) and Carinthia (515,314 accommodations, of which 19.7 per cent were for foreigners). Only in Vienna was there a slight decrease. In percentage points of foreign tourists in June 1957, Vienna (7.7 per cent) stood in fifth place, preceded in fourth place by Vorarlberg (8 per cent).

RAILROAD TARIFF AGREEMENT WITH ECSC. An agreement has been reached between Austria and the European Coal and Steel Community to the effect that deliveries of coal, steel, scrap iron and iron ore originating from one ECSC country and destined for another will, on transit through Austria, be accorded special treatment under international railroad tariff agreement of the Community. Mainly concerned are shipments between the German Federal Republic and Italy. A similar accord has already been reached between the Coal and Steel Community and Switzerland.

SMALL AUSTRIAN CAR TO SELL FOR LESS THAN \$1,000.

The initiation of small-car production and the unexpectedly heavy demand for other products of the Graz Puch Works has had favorable effects on the employment situation at that plant. As a result of new hiring, the plant staff now numbers 6,000. The delivery periods for motorcycles and scooters range from six to eight weeks, those for motorbicycles around four weeks. Production of small automobiles is expected to reach 100 daily before the end of the present year. In any event, output within the foreseeable future will presumably be large enough to ensure that the requirements of domestic purchasers can be met. Only models with special types of bodies will be exported. The fixed price of the car is still being withheld, but it is expected to be between 20,000 and 23,000 schillings (well under \$1,000). The Fiat Works in Turin are supplying the sheet-metal components for the body while all the other parts are being manufactured by the Steyr-Daimler-Puch Works. Thus, there is only an external resemblance between the new vehicle and the Fiat 500.

Current production of motorbicycles is 500 per day, approximately one half of the units being slated for export. The latest models have proved to be popular and there is a heavy demand for them in the Netherlands and Switzerland. They are also being exported to the United States, Sweden and Yugoslavia.

5.5 MILLION PERSONS HAVE DRIVEN OVER THE GROSSGLOCKNER ROAD. This year marks the twenty-third anniversary of the completion of the Grossglockner Alpine highway. In the period between the opening of the road and August 1, 1957, it has been used by 5,582,483 passengers in 907,366 regular automobiles, 90,664 buses, 322,419 motorcycles and 53,230 bicycles. (This year too, despite floods which barred the highway to through-traffic from June 21 to July 2 and the bad weather during the second half of July which made it necessary to use heavy snow-clearing equipment in the higher sections of the road for a seven-day stretch, the volume of traffic was five per cent higher than last year.) The total number of passengers in July was 212,474, travelling in vehicles bearing the license plates of 24 European and 20 non-European countries.

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF WORKERS' WAGES AND BENEFITS IN AUSTRIA AND WESTERN GERMANY. The living standard of the Austrian worker is by no means any lower than that of his counterpart in the German Federal Republic; on the basis of its study of available comparative data, the Vienna "Social Science Seminar" has come to the conclusion that the real wages of industrial workers in Austria and the Federal Republic are equally high. The average gross weekly wages of such workers are, in Austria, 415 schillings (26 schillings to the dollar; it should be noted in this context, however, that the actual purchasing power of the schilling in Austria is higher than the official exchange rate would indicate - Ed.) and 85 D mark in Germany. These figures include all supplementary payments, such as children's and housing gratuities. (In terms of purchasing power, 1 D-mark is equivalent to 5 schillings (the official rate of exchange is 1:6). Accordingly, the average gross weekly wages of an Austrian industrial worker is equivalent to 415 schillings and those of the German to 425 schillings. However, since in Austria deductions for tax and social insurance amount to 13-14 per cent for an income of this level and are therefore lower than those in the Federal Republic (where they amount to 15-16 per cent), the weekly wages of the German industrial worker have practically the same purchasing power as the earnings of his Austrian counterpart.

The statistics also show that the difference in the wages earned by skilled and unskilled workers is the same in both countries. On the other hand, the difference between wages paid to men and to women is higher in the Federal Republic than in Austria; Austrian women workers earn more than their German colleagues.

A comparison of social benefits accruing to workers in the two countries shows that Austrian social insurance is at least equivalent to that of the Federal Republic, whereas unemployment insurance is more highly developed in Austria. (In the Federal Republic, for instance, the maximum period of support is 26 weeks, as against 30 weeks in Austria. Moreover, no provision is made in the Federal Republic for insurance payments to part-time workers or for emergency payments.)

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS TAKE ALARMING TOLL. During the first week of September, 42 persons were killed and 1,200 were injured in traffic accidents in Austria. This represents an average of six deaths and almost 200 injured persons per day. If the number of traffic accidents were to continue at this level, there would be more than 2,000 deaths in 1957. (In 1956, there was an average of 22 fatal accidents for every 10,000 vehicles). Of the 1,507 traffic accidents of the week under review, drunken driving was established in 64 cases.

CULTURE AND SCIENCE

MORE STUDENTS AT AUSTRIAN UNIVERSITIES. The enrolment figures from the ten universities in Austria show that a total number of 21,139 students (as against 19,486 last year) are studying the sciences. 19.7 per cent of these were women students and approximately one third of the total number were enrolled at Vienna University. The ten universities were staffed by 1,825 professors and lecturers as well as 1,350 assistant lecturers and other instructors of the sciences.

The four Academies of Art (Fine Arts, Applied Arts, Music and Dramatic Art, all in Vienna; and the Salzburg Mozarteum) had an attendance during the same semester of 1,711 students (as against 1,607 the previous year). 41.9 per cent of these were women and the four Academies were staffed by 337 teachers.

81,664 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN AUSTRIA. In recent years there has been an extraordinary increase in high school attendance. From the school year of 1919-1920 to that of 1956-57, the total number of pupils at Austrian high schools has risen from 36,116 to 81,664.

AMERICAN MUSIC AT SALZBURG FESTIVAL. In the group of concerts of contemporary music given at Salzburg, Dimitri Mitropoulos led the Vienna Philharmonic in compositions by the young American composers Gunther Schuller, Morton Gould and Robert Mann and also by Samuel Barber and William Schuman, many of whose works have frequently been performed in Europe.

SALZBURG MOZARTEUM ATTENDANCE UP. Attendance at the International Summer College at the Mozarteum in Salzburg increased substantially over the preceding year. Enrolments for this semester include 400 registrations from 35 countries, led by Sweden, Italy and France. One hundred students from Temple University of Philadelphia attended as a group.

JEAN MADEIRA RETURNS TO VIENNA OPERA. Jean Madeira, the American contralto who sang the role of Clytemnestra in the recent Salzburg production of Richard Strauss' "Elektra," will again appear in Vienna for a period of five months during the coming season. For the present she will remain in Vienna from the beginning of September to the end of October. Next April, she will return to the company from the United States.

48 U.S. PRESS REPRESENTATIVES VISIT SALZBURG.

According to a listing by the press office of the Salzburg Festival, a total of 667 newsmen covered this year's performances. They were the accredited representatives of 616 newspapers, news agencies and radio stations in 33 countries. The German Federal Republic had the largest contingent (259), followed by Austria (92), the United States (48), the Netherlands (30), France (25), Switzerland (24), Italy (17), Eastern Germany (16), Great Britain (15), Yugoslavia (10), etc. The Salzburg Festival has never before had such extensive press coverage.

AMERICAN DANCER TO TEACH IN VIENNA. Georgia Hiden, the American ballet mistress, has signed a two year contract with the Vienna State Opera. Together with Gordon Hamilton, she will be in charge of the advanced class of young ballet dancers.

AUSTRIAN PIANIST WINS PRIZE IN BRAZIL. Alexander Jenner won the first prize of one thousand dollars in the First International Piano Competition, organized at Rio de Janeiro by the Organization of International Concert Competitions. More than 100 pianists from 33 countries participated. Jenner was also awarded a special prize for the best interpretation of Brazilian music, an award donated by Brazilian President Juscelino Kubitschek.

SECOND HOFMANNSTHAL PLAY TO BE PRODUCED AT SALZBURG IN 1958. According to present plans, "Das Gerettete Venedig" (Venice Saved) by Hugo von Hofmannsthal will be presented at the 1958 Salzburg Festival in addition to the author's "Everyman."

KARAJAN PLANS FESTIVAL SUBSCRIPTION SERIES. At a recent press conference in Salzburg, Herbert Karajan, director of the Salzburg Festivals, discussed some of his plans for future Festivals. The most important project mentioned had to do with the introduction--possibly beginning with next year--of a system of subscriptions to Festival performances.

Karajan proposed that, by way of a start, there should first be a subscription series covering the various openings, but later an additional one extending over a period of five or six Festival days, thereby affording visitors an opportunity and incentive to remain for at least a week in or near Salzburg. The idea underlying the project is the development of a new permanent audience which will be guided by its own interest rather than by chances or the managers of tourist offices.

PICASSO SETS TO BE SEEN AT VIENNA OPERA. According to another announcement by Herbert Karajan, it is planned to produce Manuel de Falla's "Three Corners Hat" at the Vienna State Opera probably as part of the ballet season planned for November. The performing artists will be the ballet corps of the Milan Opera. The sets and costumes for this ballet were designed by Pablo Picasso. This will be the first time that Picasso's work for the stage will be seen in Vienna.

NEW FESTIVAL THEATER TO OFFER FAUST, PARTS I AND II, IN CONTINUOUS PERFORMANCE.

The next speaker at the Salzburg press conference after Karajan was Ernst Lothar, the creator of the new "Everyman" production. He announced that the first dramatic presentation in the new Festival Theater at Salzburg, which is yet to be built, will be Goethe's "Faust," part I and II. Lothar plans to present both parts of the play, the greatest dramatic work in the German language, on a single day, giving Part I in the afternoon and Part II in the evening.

Mr. Lothar, who is the guiding spirit behind the rebirth of theatrical activity at the Salzburg Festivals, promised further that there would be no change in the custom of presenting a Salzburg premiere or a world premiere every year. Lothar also plans to renew invitations to foreign ensembles to participate at the Festivals. As was the case with the Jean Villard company two years ago, these groups would have an opportunity to represent the theater art of their respective countries. According to Lothar's plan, one such group would appear in Salzburg every year. They would give two performances of a production prepared specifically for the Festival. Among the groups under consideration, are the companies of Jean-Louis Barrault, Sir Lawrence Olivier and Giorgio Strehler.

"MERRY WIDOW" TO BE GIVEN ON THE BODENSEE.

Franz Lehar's "The Merry Widow" has been selected as the 1958 production in the traditional "Play on the Lake" series of the Bregenz Festival. A performance of Smetana's "The Bartered Bride" at the Municipal Hall and the world premiere of a Reinhold Schneider play performed by the Vienna Burg Theater company are also scheduled for next year's season. (Schneider's work was the winning selection in the competition organized by the Bregenz Festival.)

AUSTRIAN FILM PRODUCTION THRIVING. Austrian film studios are currently working to capacity, with ten films in production in studios throughout the country. "Heimweh dort, wo die Blumen bluehn," "Meine schoene Mama" and "Die Winzerin von Langenlois" are some of the titles currently under production in the provinces.

The following are now being filmed in Vienna studios: "Die Heilige und ihr Narr," "Unter 18," "Mit Rosen faengt die Liebe an," "Der schoenste Tag meines Lebes" (featuring the Vienna Choir Boys) and "Skandal in Ischl" (based on Hermann Bahr's comedy "Der Meister;" O.W. Fischer in the leading role).

German film companies are producing films entitled "Wilderer vom Silberwald" and "Das Schloss in Tirol" in Austria.

THEATER RESEARCH MEETING AT VIENNA IN 1959. At the Second Congress for Theatrical Research, which met in Venice recently, it was decided that the next plenary meeting of the International Society for Theatrical Research will be held in Vienna in 1959, during the Vienna Festival. Representatives from 28 countries will attend.

THE VIENNA OPERA IN THE NEW SEASON. The 1957-58 season opened in September with a new production of Puccini's "Madame Butterfly" under the baton of Dimitri Mitropoulos (stage direction: Gielen, sets: Fujima; the cast: Jurinac, Roessel, Zampieri, Panerai and Ercolani).

A new production of Offenbach's "The Tales of Hoffmann" will be presented in October (conductor, Votto; stage director, Rott; sets: Kautsky). The singers will be Lipp, Goltz, Stich-Randall, Ludwig, Hoengen, Dermota, Schoeffler and Klein. The November premiere will be an evening of ballet, including Einem's "Medusa" (a world premiere) and Bartok's "The Miraculous Mandarin." A new production of Wagner's "Siegfried" will follow in December. (Herbert Karajan will be both musical and stage director; sets: Emil Praetorius; the cast includes Nilsson, Windgassen, Hotter, Klein and Neidlinger.)

The new year's first novelty (in January will be Josef Krips' production of Mozart's "Magic Flute" (stage director, Rennert; sets: Wakhiewitch). The leading roles will be sung by Seefried, Koeth, Rottenberger, Dermota, Frick, Kunz, Waechter and Klein. Next, in February, Egk's "Der Revisor" (stage director, Rennert; sets by Hlawka; costumes by Kniepert). The March novelty will be another ballet evening, featuring the world premiere of a work by Theodor Berger and a performance of Stravinsky's "Petrushka" (Choreography, Leonide Massine). The new production of Puccini's "Tosca," scheduled for April, will be under the baton of Karajan. (Stage direction: Frigerio; Renata Tebaldi in the title role.) Another special event in April will be the new production of Hindemith's "Mathis, der Maler" (Karl Boehm, conductor; Rott, director; sets by Kautsky.)

The presentation of Stravinsky's "Oedipus Rex" in June will be directed by O.F. Schuh. Herbert Karajan will conduct the performances. Another June feature will be the new production of Rossini's "La Cenerentola" at the Redoutensaal.

The Week of Contemporary Music scheduled for the end of June will include performances of "Mathis, der Maler," "Oedipus Rex," "Wozzeck," "Sturm," "I Trionfi," "Der Revisor," and an evening of ballet.

THE VIENNA THEATER SEASON. The *Burgtheater* opened its regular season on September 1 with a performance of Schiller's "Maria Stuart" starring Paula Wessely and Kaethe Dorsch. The first new production will be Shakespeare's "As You Like It," to be given on September 20 under the

direction of Leopold Lindtberg. The next premiere, at the end of October, will be Thornton Wilder's "Alceste," under the direction of Ernst Lothar, followed by Rudolf Holzer's "Justitia," with Ewald Balser in the role of Michael Kchlhaas. Shortly before the Christmas holidays, Josef Gielen will direct a production of Grillparzer's "Ein Bruderzwist in Hapsburg" with Werner Kraus in a leading role.

The *Akademie Theater* began its season on September 5 with "Donna Diana," followed on September 7 by Hofmannsthal's one-act plays "Eduard und die Maedchen" and "Die Laestigen." In mid-September it offered Hoemberg's "Chinese Widow." The next premiere is to be Anouilh's "The Test," starring Viktor de Kowa. Later in the season, Kaethe Dorsch will appear in Shaw's "Mrs. Warren's Profession."

The *Theater in der Josefstadt* opened on September 1 with Melchior Lengyel's "Das stille Haus," with Vilma Degischer in the lead. From September 10-12, the Theater will be host to the Recklinghausen Ruhr Festival production of Goethe's "Iphigenie auf Tauris," as staged by Gustav Sellner. September 27 is the date of the first Vienna performance of Graham Greene's new play, "The Potting Shed," produced by Lothar Muethel and starring Helene Thimig, Anton Edthofer and Leopold Rudolf. From October 3-5, the Berlin Renaissance Theater will appear in a guest performance of Moliere's "Amphitryon," with Axel von Ambesser directing and playing the title role. Another premiere scheduled for October is that of N.C. Hunter's "Day by the Sea," under the direction of Heinrich Schnitzler with Helene Thimig and Anton Edthofer in the lead roles. On November 19, the theater will present the first German-language performance of the play "Die Gewehre der Discornia" by Umberto Morucchio and in December it will offer the first Vienna production of Arthur Miller's "A View from the Bridge."

The *Volkstheater* began its season with Nestroy's "Lumpazivagabundus," followed by the German-language premiere of Priestley's "Summer Day's Dream." In its Contemporary Literature series, the theater is presenting Arthur Koestler's "Darkness at Noon" on September 27. Guenther Haenel will portray the part of Rubashov. The first Austrian performance of Marcel Pagnol's "Gottes liebe Kinder" is scheduled for October 25. On November 27, Johannes Heesters will appear as guest artist in Deval's "Mon Frère Jacques." The Christmas-season production, opening on December 21, will be Gogol's "The Inspector General." In its series of performances in the suburbs, the company will perform Kleist's "Amphitryon," Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie" and Bruno Frank's "Sturm im Wasserglas."